



# Vocabulary

Research shows that children who have larger vocabularies are better readers. Knowing many words helps children recognize & understand written words.

**To help develop a strong vocabulary:**

- Talk to your child, a lot! Research shows that parents who talk to their children more often have children with larger vocabularies, and those children score higher on IQ tests.
- Talk to your child about what is going on around you. Talk about how things work, feelings and ideas. Listen when your child talks to you.
- Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you.
- Read to your child every day. Children's books have more rare words than the every day conversations people have. Talk about the stories and the pictures in books.
- Learn together by reading nonfiction books. Help your child pick out books about things that he is interested in.
- When your child talks to you, add more detail to what she says. Expand conversations and ask questions to learn more.
- Use encouraging words whenever possible. When a child does something she shouldn't, suggest a better or right way to do it and avoid negative criticism.

**Parents who talk to their children throughout the day are giving them a gift. The language they learn will help them enjoy and understand the world around them and help prepare them to become lifelong learners.**